GAUTIER STATE HISTORIC MARKERS

GRAVELINE

In 1718 this area was settled by Jean-Baptiste Baudreau *dit* Graveline, born 1671 in Montreal. Arrived with d'Iberville at Fort Maurepas aboard the *Renommée*, Jan. 8, 1700. Prominent colonist - adventurer - merchant.

Historical Marker - I 10 North Lane at West Bound Rest Stop, Gautier, MS.

SAINT PIERRE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Saint Pierre's Episcopal Church was organized in 1921 by Bishop Theodore DuBose Bratton, third Bishop of Mississippi. In 1992 the congregation constructed a new sanctuary at this location under the leadership of Rev. Harold Martin. The original Graveline Road site, designed by Rev. John Chipman, was sold in 1998.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY, 2014

HISTORIC GAUTIER CEMETERY

Originally a burial site for the Gautier family, this cemetery contains the graves of Fernando Gautier and Henry Gautier (builder of Twelve Oaks). Members of the Clifford, Fayard, Fuller, LeBatard, Pelham, Peterson, Quinn, Saucier, Vaughn, and Ziegler families were later buried here. The earliest grave is dated 1874.

THE OLD PLACE

Built c. 1867 by Fernando Upton Gautier and his wife, Theresa Fayard Gautier. The Gautiers moved to this area from Biloxi and established the F. Gautier and Sons Sawmill in 1866. The house is built with native pine cut at the sawmill, which closed in 1906. The community adopted the name Gautier about 1910.

FERNANDO GAUTIER AND SONS SAWMILL

This sawmill operated at this site from 1867 until 1906, employing more than twenty local citizens and producing 30,000 board feet of lumber per day at its peak. The sawmill was well situated with easy access to the river, railroad, plentiful forests, and a nearby creosote plant. In 1906 after a hurricane severely damaged the plant and devastated the area's timber supply, Gautier closed the sawmill. Due to the contribution of the mill this area was named for Fernando Gautier in the 1890s.

GAUTIER SCHOOL

Built in 1940, the Gautier School replaced the Lyon School, built in 1918 and located three miles west at Hilda. The Lyon School consolidated other schools in the area, including the "Little Red Schoolhouse," built in 1890 by Walter Gautier. The "Little Red Schoolhouse" was located about 500 yards south of this site.

Updated 05/04/15

NEW ERA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Organized ca. 1886, this African American church is the oldest continuous congregation in Gautier. Twice destroyed by fire, the church was rebuilt at its present site in 1893. The New Era Missionary Baptist Church choir sang at the 1936 inauguration of Governor Hugh L. White in Jackson.

CREOSOTE WORKS

The West Pascagoula Creosote Works, at this site, was the first continuously operated creosote treatment plant in the nation. Established in 1874 to protect railroad bridge timbers against rot and the toredo worm, the plant was open until 1978. Thousands of the treated pilings were used in building the Panama Canal.

JENNIE ORRELL HOUSE

Built ca. 1907 of long leaf yellow pine by Eugenie Orrell (1850-1932), daughter of Alfred and Ann Lewis, owners of Oldfields Plantation. The old Louisville and Nashville Railroad depot was moved to this site in 1968 as a guest house. The depot, built in 1902, served Gautier until 1954, when it was closed by the L&N Railroad.

LABROT HOUSE

Built ca. 1899 by S. W. and Elizabeth Henderson Labrot. Labrot was superintendent of the L & N Railroad Creosote Plant. In 1902, the Labrots sold the house to the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company. The style of construction, using vertical weatherboards with battens, is typical of L&N R. R. buildings of the period.

TWELVE OAKS

Built ca. 1896 by Henry Gautier (1848-1921) for his second wife, Laura Canty. Henry Gautier was the eldest son of Fernando Gautier. The house is located in the Helen Moro Spanish land grant claim and was built on the site of the McRae Hotel, a pre-Civil War vacation resort for coastal area residents.

MCRAE FAMILY CEMETERY

Arriving in 1827, the McRaes were among the earliest settlers of this area and owned extensive property along the Mississippi Sound. This cemetery is the burial place of family patriarch John McRae, who died in 1835. His sons Colin, John J., and James all held important political offices. John J. McRae served as governor 1854-1857.

THE LEWIS HOUSE
("OLDFIELDS")

Greek Revival house built c. 1845
on land grant of Jean Baptiste
Beaudreau de Graveline by Col.
Alfred E. Lewis, planter, merchant,
and politician. Occupied by Union
army, December 1864. Purchased
in 1905 by Grinstead family.
Agnes "Sissie" Grinstead and
artist husband Walter Anderson
lived here in the 1940s.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY, 1998

GRAVELINE BAYOU
INDIAN MOUND

The nearby earthern mound was built
by prehistoric Indians during the
Late Woodland Period between 400
and 700 A.D. The mound's flat
summit was used for ceremonial
purposes. Listed in the National
Register of Historic Places, it
is one of the few remaining Native
American mounds on the Mississippi
Gulf Coast.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY, 2002